

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 19 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The need in the art is addressed by the apparatus and methods taught by the present invention. An apparatus for charging a battery according to its temperature is taught. The apparatus includes a charging circuit adapted to charge a battery and a temperature sensor positioned to sense a battery temperature, i.e., adjacent environmental temperature. The apparatus includes a controller coupled to the temperature sensor and the charging circuit. The controller operates to set the charging current in accordance with the sensed temperature. The charging current is set to a maximum value when the temperature is lower than a first predetermined threshold value, the maximum value being the battery's maximum specified charging current, and the first predetermined threshold value being the battery's maximum charging temperature.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 26 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In a refinement, the controller continuously sets the charging current in accordance with the sensed temperature. In a further refinement, the controller periodically sets the charging current in accordance with the sensed temperature. In a further refinement, the apparatus further includes a memory coupled to the controller having a temperature and charging current look up table stored therein. In this embodiment, the controller accesses the look up table to set the charging current. In a further refinement, the controller operates to set the charging current to a maximum value when the temperature is lower than a first predetermined threshold value. In a further refinement, the maximum value is the battery's maximum specified charging

current and the first predetermined threshold value is the battery's maximum charging temperature. In a further refinement, the controller sets the charging current to zero when the temperature is higher than a second predetermined threshold value. In a further refinement, the battery is coupled to a load and the temperature sensor senses the temperature of the battery and the load.